



Carnforth Urban District Council



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1959

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
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H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1959.

C A R N F O R T H U R B A N D I S T R I C T

C O U N C I L

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C O N T E N T S.

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CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1959.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1959 on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of Carnforth Urban District.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1959 was 3,900, an increase of 30 on the previous year. At the 1951 census the figure was 3,388, so that the population of Carnforth has increased by 512 or 15.1 per cent over the past 8 years. During this period births have exceeded deaths by 222 and the remainder of the increase can therefore be attributed to the influx of new residents

There were 81 registered live births during the year equivalent to a crude birth rate of 20.8 per 1,000 population, compared with an average rate of 19.8 for the preceding five years. The national birth rate in 1959 was 16.5 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from all causes amounted to 31, a decrease of 13 from the previous year, giving an adjusted death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 population which may be compared with the rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

For the fifth successive year there were no deaths from maternal causes. Three infants died within one week of birth giving an infant mortality rate of 37 per 1,000 live births, compared with an average rate of 35 over the previous five years. The national infant mortality rate in 1959 was 22.2 per 1,000 live births.

A fairly large outbreak of measles resulted in 87 cases being notified during the year, the largest number since 1951 when 88 cases were recorded. Otherwise the general health of the community remained satisfactory during 1959.

In the section dealing with environmental hygiene your Public Health Inspector has reported fully on the various services which play an important part in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community.

It is interesting to note from the report that despite the serious drought which affected many parts of the country Carnforth had a plentiful supply of water and was extremely fortunate in this respect.

During 1959 eight bungalows for old people were built by the Council in recognition of the need for special housing for this vulnerable section of the population. To be able to continue living independently in their own homes is generally what old people prize above all. The provision of adequate special housing of this type will, to a large extent, prevent old people having to seek accommodation in communal welfare homes.

The outstanding feature in the report dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area is progress made in the improvement of the older types of houses through the provision of modern facilities in accordance with the "discretionary" and "standard" grant procedure under the Housing Acts. The latter are now of course obligatory upon the Local Authority but modernisation and preservation of older properties has been advocated by your Officers for a number of years.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the continued interest shown by the Council in all matters relating to Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. Farquhar,
Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N A.

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S T A T I S T I C S A N D S O C I A L
C O N D I T I O N S O F T H E A R E A.

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GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)	1,504
POPULATION (Census 1931)	3,139
" (Census 1951)	3,388
" (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1959)	3,900
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951)	1,095
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1959)	1,341
RATEABLE VALUE	£42,790
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£180

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Railway and Agricultural work.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1959

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	45	35	80
(Illegitimate)	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	<u>46</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>81</u>
	—	—	—
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 est. population			20.8
Adjusted " " " " " "			20.8
STILL BIRTHS - No. Registered			NIL.
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)			NIL.
DEATHS (All causes) - No. Registered	14	17	31
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 est. population			7.9
Adjusted " " " " " "			8.8
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED CAUSES:-			
Heart Disease (all forms)	1	5	6
Cancer (all forms)	4	4	8
Accidents (all forms)	2	-	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis			NIL.
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES			NIL.
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			NIL.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	3	-	3
Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			37.0.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE	3	-	3
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			37.0
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	3	-	3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			37.0
STILL BIRTHS PLUS FIRST WEEK DEATHS	3	-	3
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			37.0

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1959.

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	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm of lung etc.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	-	-
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	3	4
Coronary disease, angina	1	4	5
Hypertension with heart diseases	-	-	-
Other heart diseases	-	1	1
Other circulatory diseases	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Gastritis	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-
	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>31</u>

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959 AND THE PERIOD 1954-58.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n births	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No of Deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1959	81	20.8	31	7.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	37.0	3	37.0
1958	72	18.6	44	11.4	1	13.7	Nil	Nil	1	13.9	1	13.9
1957	93	24.2	46	11.9	1	10.6	Nil	Nil	3	32	1	11
1956	66	17.1	32	8.3	1	15	Nil	Nil	4	61	2	30
1955	71	18.6	46	12.1	1	14	Nil	Nil	1	14	1	14
1954	74	20.4	45	13.5	2	26	1	13.16	4	54	2	27
Average 1954-58		19.8		11.4		15.8		2.6		35.0		19.2

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.00 = 20.8
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.11 = 8.8

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) DOMICILIARY SERVICES.

For the benefit of residents in the area two district nurse/midwives are resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Yealand Redmayne and Bolton-le-Sands. Three health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement.

During 1959 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 49.43 children per weekly session.

(3) COMBINED SCHOOL CLINIC AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

At 21 Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2 - 4 p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9.30 - 11.30 a.m.) An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Thursday morning and afternoon. A clinic is held every Thursday afternoon at which expectant mothers attend for relaxation, exercises and the teaching of mothercraft.

(4) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic. Since 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis have also been available to children in certain age groups

(5) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) OTHER SERVICES.

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 3 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) WELFARE SERVICES - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee:-

- (a) Residential Accommodation: For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided at Dolphinlee, The Laurels and Fair Elms at Lancaster; at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe; Moor Platt and The Hermitage at Caton.
- (b) Temporary Accommodation: In case of urgent need, e.g. fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.
- (c) Handicapped Persons: For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.
- (d) Homes for Disabled and/or Old Persons: There are seven homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary or private bodies. These are registered and inspected regularly by the divisional medical staff.

(8) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Robertson and his staff at the new Public Health Laboratory, Preston. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:-

- (a) Tuberculosis:- Chest Clinic, Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.
- (b) Venereal Diseases:- Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.
- (c) Deaf Aid Clinic:- A session for the provision of hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth on the first Wednesday of each month.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED

DURING 1959

DISEASES	TOTAL CASES	- AGE PERIODS - YEARS								
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	87	6	16	25	39	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	97	6	16	27	43	4	-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1959 1 new case of tuberculosis was notified and no deaths from this disease were recorded.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. The young mothers of to-day do not realise the danger of this disease but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. Despite the growing number of other immunisation and vaccination procedures, it is just as important now as it was 20 years ago that efforts be continued to ensure a high level of immunisation against diphtheria.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in the last four years are compared.

IMMUNISATION IN CARNFORTH - 1956 - 1959.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation.

Age Groups	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus.		
	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1956	68	4	72	65	-	65	57	-	57
1957	75	4	79	72	-	72	71	-	71
1958	73	7	80	74	2	76	66	1	67
1959	75	6	81	76	3	79	72	3	75

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection.

Age Groups	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Tetanus.
	All ages	All ages	All ages
1956	123	2	-
1957	70	12	2
1958	135	36	3
1959	141	19	5

S E C T I O N D.

S A N I T A R Y C I R C U M S T A N C E S

O F T H E A R E A

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WATER SUPPLY.

Water abundant in quantity is supplied from the Lancaster Corporation reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons. There was no shortage whatever during the period of drought which restricted supplies in several areas during the year.

It is chlorinated and filtered but at one period difficulties in purification developed due to the clogging of the filters but this was successfully dealt with by treatment of the collecting reservoir.

All but 8 of the houses within the Carnforth Urban District are supplied from the public mains, the remainder (outlying farms and cottages) having private supplies. The expense of laying mains to these premises appears to be the one prohibiting factor towards the removal of these unsatisfactory supplies.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each discharging the effluent into adjacent streams after sedimentation and filtration.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

With the exception of seven premises, all dwellings (inclusive of farms) within the area have fresh water closets. Pail closets are provided in the seven cases without water closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1400 bins per week are dealt with.

HOUSING.

No new houses were built either by the Council or by private enterprise. A site still remains upon which a further block of 30 flats can be built whenever the Council considers it appropriate.

Eight bungalows for old persons were completed by the Council during the year and one was built by private enterprise. A further small area of land remains for future development, but compared with former demand, the need for the erection of new houses to accommodate un-housed families is not so pressing.

The housing of the Urban District is made up as follows:
597 Modern type, detached, semi detached or in terrace formation.

458 Cottage type.

286 Parlour type.

Most of the latter two groups were built in rows about 1880 and are generally structurally sound. They are through houses open on to roads with small yards at the rear.

Three "Discretionary" Grants and twelve "Standard" Grants were made by the Local Authority giving effect to the modernisation of dwellings none of which would have been likely to materialise without grant aid.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

No. of premises inspected	73
Defects discovered	23
Defects remedied	23
Informal Notices served	23
Statutory Notices served	0

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

Inspection of shop premises as far as the Council are concerned is carried out simultaneously with visits made under the Shops Acts on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. No serious contraventions of those parts of the Act administered by the Urban Authority have been found.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES.

The three butchers in the area are obtaining carcass meat and offal from wholesale distributors outside Carnforth. It is inspected before despatch and as there are no local slaughterhouses within the area the problem of meat inspection at time of slaughter of animals does not arise.

Contact with the shops is, however, maintained, though there has been no occasion for the condemnation of any fresh or imported meat or offal during the year.

Small amounts of tinned foods surrendered by shopkeepers and foodstuffs contaminated in transit have been dealt with.

No fish arriving in the area has had to be certified as unfit for consumption.

The maintenance of satisfactory standards in food premises has been observed.

MILK SUPPLY

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949 -

No. of distributors registered by the L.A. and operating from:-
(a) Dairies in the district..... 3
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies..... Nil
(c) Premises outside the district..... 3

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-54.

No. of dealers licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the L.A. during 1959 in respect of "Tuberculin Tested Milk..... 3

The MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 - 53.

No. of licences issued in respect of heat treated milk 0
No. of licences to retail distributors:-
(a) Pasteurised 3
(b) Sterilised..... Nil
Refusals or revocation of licences for designated milk..... None

Particulars of structural alterations or improvements carried out to dairies during the year None

ACTION TAKEN BY THE L.A. IN RELATION TO SAMPLES TAKEN WITHIN
THE DISTRICT.

		RESULTS			
		No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No Result
(a)	Raw Milk:-				
1.	Tuberculosis biological	35	35	Nil	Nil
2.	Meth. Blue reductase	20	20	Nil	Nil
3.	B. Coli	35	33	2	Nil
4.	Sediment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b)	Heat Treated Milk:-				
1.	Tuberculosis Pasteurised	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Phosphatase	4	4	Nil	Nil
3.	Meth. Blue reductase "Sterilised"	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Results of Ministry investigations.....	Nil
No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors.	Nil
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis	
Order, 1938.....	Nil
No. of animals seized.....	Nil
No of cases reported negative where animals had been seized..	Nil
No of cases reported negative, no animals seized.....	Nil
Action taken under Regulation 19 of the M. and D.	
Regulations, 1949.....	None necessary
Action taken under Regulation 20 of the M. and D.	
Regulations, 1949.....	None necessary

ICE CREAM

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and all premises registered for the sale of ice cream are satisfactory for the purpose.

FOOD POISONING

There have been no outbreak of food poisoning within the Urban District during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's area has been little affected by rats or mice and no notices have been required to enforce disinfection.

The Sewers have shown themselves free on test baiting. The sewage disposal works are occasionally found infested, but they are treated when necessary and kept under control.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are none in the area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 22 in number and all are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

